



NEWS RELEASE

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Former DWP Employee Charged with Conflict of Interest, Misappropriation

A former audio-visual technician for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has been charged with more than two dozen felony counts for allegedly misappropriating more than \$4 million in public funds, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Thatcus Carl Richard (dob 5/23/51) of Moreno Valley is expected to be arraigned next week in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

He is charged with 27 counts: nine counts each of conflict of interest, public officer crime and embezzlement by a public officer with an excessive-taking allegation of more than \$1 million.

Deputy District Attorneys Kennes Ma and Susan Choi of the Public Integrity Division are prosecuting the case.

The defendant was in charge of managing video and audio jobs for the utility. Between July 1996 and March 2014, Richard allegedly enlisted friends to establish audio-visual companies and then he helped award DWP contracts to them, the prosecutor said.

In return, these companies would then allegedly subcontract the work to a company owned by the defendant called Top Line Communications. Richard also is accused of using DWP equipment and resources for his personal gain.

Case BA433122 was filed for arrest warrant on Jan. 26, 2015. Investigators from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation arrested the defendant yesterday in San Bernardino County.

Prosecutors have recommended that the defendant's bail be set at \$1.2 million. If convicted as charged, Richard faces up to 20 years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.